

1 In the Abstract:

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3 Please amend the abstract as follows:

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5 A modular picket fence including a pair of vertical separated posts  
6 ~~positioned at suitable distance~~ and adapted to be secured to a suitable support  
7 surface. A pair of horizontal upper and lower rails extend between and secured to  
8 the vertical posts. The upper rail has a plurality of apertures which are aligned  
9 with a plurality of apertures on the lower rail. A plurality of vertical pickets are  
10 respectively inserted through into aligned apertures of the upper and lower rails.  
11 The end portion of each vertical picket has two transverse apertures. A locking  
12 member is assembled inside each end portion of the vertical picket. The locking  
13 member has spring biased stoppers extending through the transverse apertures at  
14 the end portion of the vertical picket, and further extending into and engaging  
15 inside the horizontal rail when the end portion of the vertical picket is inserted into  
16 one of the apertures of the horizontal rail, ~~thereby preventing vertical movement of~~  
17 ~~the vertical pickets with respect to the horizontal rails.~~